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10 January 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

Cyprus: [Turkish leaders are warning US officials that they have been under pressure to take stronger action on the Cyprus issue.]

[The chief of the Turkish General Staff has indicated that his government anticipates further trouble on the island following next week's London conference, which he does not expect will produce a solution. The air force chief has privately cited Communist strength on Cyprus and stated that Turkey is prepared to prevent the development of "another Cuba" just 40 miles off the Turkish coast.]

[Moscow's public support of the Greek Cypriot position will severely strain Turkish-Soviet relations. The USSR has formally accused Turkey of being "interventionist." When asked to explain the charge, the Soviet ambassador in Ankara delivered a tirade and stalked out without shaking hands with Prime Minister Inonu.]

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Ghana: *The attempt on Nkrumah's life last week apparently triggered an extensive internal shake-up which so far has focused on Ghana's security services.*

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[redacted] More steps, possibly including the arrest of one or more ministers, are likely to follow.

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Although there had been some build-up in the party press against the police even before the latest assassination attempt, the US Embassy believes the wholesale purge will shock most Ghanaians. In conjunction with other recent developments--notably the scheduling of a constitutional referendum to convert Ghana formally into a one-party state--it could prompt already deeply disaffected moderate elements to plan action to remove Nkrumah. Included among these elements are many civil servants and some army officers and police officials.

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Communist China - Africa: Chou En-lai thus far in his African tour has favorably impressed his hosts; his visit to Tunisia is expected to result in the establishment of diplomatic relations.

Nasir told Ambassador Badeau he was surprised by Chou's quiet intelligence, reasonableness, and apparent willingness to accept the principle of non-alignment. Nasir also said he was relieved that Chou did not "attempt to mount an offensive" against the Soviet Union.

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The Chinese leader returned to Africa on 9 January after a nine-day side trip to Albania. Chou's two-day visit to Tunisia was apparently arranged only in late December when Bourguiba agreed to announce the establishment of diplomatic relations during the visit. Bourguiba had indicated as far back as 1958 that he planned to establish relations with Communist China.

After leaving Tunisia, Chou is scheduled to visit Ghana, Mali, and Guinea in West Africa. He will then swing through East Africa, stopping in the Sudan, Tanganyika, and Uganda, and possibly Somalia and Ethiopia.

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Angola: Holden Roberto may accept some Communist aid to help him retain leadership of the Angolan nationalist movement.

[There is considerable dissension within Roberto's Congo-based government-in-exile. The guerrilla campaign against the Portuguese in northern Angola has made little progress and many Africans are questioning Roberto's competence as a leader. He is frustrated at the failure of the African states to support him either materially or at the UN, as he expected. He fears that some African nations may renew their backing of a rival left-wing organization.]

[While no details of any Communist offers are available, Roberto claims that arms, ammunition, and money are involved.]

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*Panama: [Anti-US reaction in the wake of last night's riot is likely to be prolonged]

[Communist agitators are attempting to keep tensions high and reportedly are planning to organize student rallies this morning. Labor leaders are using the situation to trigger a general strike planned for some months.]

[Politicians with an eye on national elections in May will be tempted to internationalize Panama's complaints against the US--Panamanian radio stations have already quoted President Chiari as stating he will lodge a protest with the Organization of American States and with the United Nations.]

[Last night's riot developed as an outgrowth of a dispute between US and Panamanian students over flying the flags of the two nations in front of a Canal Zone high school. Canal Zone police met resistance when they tried to move the Panamanian students out of the Zone. The students were joined by other Panamanians at the border where the violence started.]

[The issue of flying the Panamanian flag in the Zone has been an increasing source of contention, with the Panamanians insisting on this dual display. Recently the Canal Zone Government extended an earlier agreement on dual display to include additional sites and to stipulate that neither flag could fly alone. Violence also followed a flag incident in the Canal Zone in November 1959.]

[Yesterday's rioting damaged US official and private property but a crowd which had gathered outside the US Embassy dispersed early this morning without moving against the building. A number of Panamanians are reported wounded and six dead; there have been no confirmed reports of American casualties.]

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Belgium - Communist China: A senior Belgian Foreign Ministry official has indicated serious concern that a French move to recognize Peiping would generate strong pressures in Belgium to follow suit. He noted that both government parties and Foreign Minister Spaak already favor recognition in principle. The official also implied that trade promotion feelers the Belgians are now getting from the Chinese Communists might stimulate pressure for recognition from business and industrial interests.

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